

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-19, as shown below, and add new claims 20-29, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

Application:

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A gas treatment apparatus comprising:

an outer tube having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system for receiving gas and a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust pipe, and defining an inner space;

a wafer boat having a circumference provided in said inner space and holding plural wafers spaced from one another in a predetermined direction;

an inner tube provided between said wafer boat and said outer tube and elongated in said predetermined direction; and

a gas feeder provided between said inner tube and said wafer boat extending partially around the circumference of the wafer boat, connected to a said gas inlet port and defining a gas passage gradually reduced in cross section in said predetermined direction, and formed with a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced in said predetermined direction for blowing said gas to said wafers.

**Claim 2 (currently amended):** ~~The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which~~ A gas treatment apparatus comprising:

an outer tube having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system for receiving gas and a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust pipe, and defining an inner space;

a wafer boat provided in said inner space and holding plural wafers spaced from one another in a predetermined direction;

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an inner tube provided between said wafer boat and said outer tube and elongated in said predetermined direction; and

a gas feeder provided between said inner tube and said wafer boat, connected to a said gas inlet port and defining a gas passage gradually reduced in cross section in said predetermined direction, and formed with a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced in said predetermined direction for blowing said gas to said wafers,

wherein said gas feeder has a narrow end surface, a wide end surface, a convex outer surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface, a concave inner surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface and spaced from said convex outer surface and semi-cylindrical side surfaces connected between one of the side lines of said convex outer surface and one of the side lines of said concave inner surface and between the other of said side lines of said convex outer surface and the other of said side lines of said concave inner surface, and said gas inlet port is connected to said gas feeder at a position closer to said wide end surface than said narrow end surface.

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 2, ~~in~~ which wherein said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface on a virtual line extending from said wide end surface toward said narrow end surface.

**Claim 4 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 2, ~~in~~ which wherein said outer convex surface and said inner concave surface are opposed to the inner surface of said outer tube and said wafer boat, respectively, and said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface.

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**Claim 5 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 3, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said virtual line is a generating line of said concave inner surface, and is substantially in parallel to a centerline of said wafer boat.

**Claim 6 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 2, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said wide end surface has a generally crescent shape.

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said gas passage and said gas outlet holes ~~keeps~~ keep the pressure of said gas inside of said gas feeder substantially constant.

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said gas contains a doping gas component, and said doping gas component is supplied through said gas feeder to said wafers supported in said wafer boat.

**Claim 9 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said gas further contains a reactant gas component used for depositing a material on said wafers.

**Claim 10 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said outer tube serves as an outer shell of a reactor forming a part of a chemical vapor deposition system.

**Claim 11 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 10, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said chemical vapor deposition system is used for a low- pressure chemical vapor deposition.

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**Claim 12 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 11, ~~in~~ which wherein said gas contains a doping gas component, a reactant gas used for depositing a material and a dilution gas.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** A gas treatment apparatus comprising:  
an air-tight vessel having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system, a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust system and an inner space defined therein;  
a retainer having a circumference provided in said inner space and retaining plural wafers arranged at intervals; and  
a gas feeder connected at one end portion thereof to said gas inlet port and having a gas passage reduced in cross section from said one end portion toward another end portion of said gas feeder and a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced along a virtual line connected to said gas passage for blowing said gas toward said plural wafers, said gas feeder extending partially around the circumference of the retainer.

**Claim 14 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 13, ~~in~~ which wherein said gas passage keeps the gas pressure at said gas outlet holes constant.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** ~~The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 13, in~~ which A gas treatment apparatus comprising:

an air-tight vessel having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system, a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust system and an inner space defined therein;

a retainer provided in said inner space and retaining plural wafers arranged at intervals;  
and

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a gas feeder connected at one end portion thereof to said gas inlet port and having a gas passage reduced in cross section from said one end portion toward another end portion of said gas feeder and a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced along a virtual line connected to said gas passage for blowing said gas toward said plural wafers,

wherein said gas feeder has a narrow end surface, a wide end surface, a convex outer surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface, a concave inner surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface and spaced from said convex outer surface and semi-cylindrical side surfaces connected between one of the side lines of said convex outer surface and one of the side lines of said concave inner surface and between the other of said side lines of said convex outer surface and the other of said side lines of said concave inner surface, and said gas inlet port is connected to said gas feeder at a position closer to said wide end surface than said narrow end surface.

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 15, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface on a virtual line extending from said wide end surface toward said narrow end surface.

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 15, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said outer convex surface and said inner concave surface are opposed to an inner surface of said air-tight vessel and said retainer, respectively, and said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface.

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 16, ~~in~~ ~~which~~ wherein said virtual line is a generating line of said concave inner surface, and is substantially in parallel to a centerline of said retainer.

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**Claim 19 (currently amended):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 15, ~~in~~ wherein said wide end surface has a generally crescent shape.

**Claim 20 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said gas feeder has a narrow end surface, a wide end surface, a convex outer surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface, a concave inner surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface and spaced from said convex outer surface and semi-cylindrical side surfaces connected between one of the side lines of said convex outer surface and one of the side lines of said concave inner surface and between the other of said side lines of said convex outer surface and the other of said side lines of said concave inner surface, and said gas inlet port is connected to said gas feeder at a position closer to said wide end surface than said narrow end surface.

**Claim 21 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface on a virtual line extending from said wide end surface toward said narrow end surface.

**Claim 22 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein said outer convex surface and said inner concave surface are opposed to the inner surface of said outer tube and said wafer boat, respectively, and said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface.

**Claim 23 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein said virtual line is a generating line of said concave inner surface, and is substantially in parallel to a centerline of said wafer boat.

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**Claim 24 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein said wide end surface has a generally crescent shape.

**Claim 25 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said gas feeder has a narrow end surface, a wide end surface, a convex outer surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface, a concave inner surface extending between said narrow end surface and said wide end surface and spaced from said convex outer surface and semi-cylindrical side surfaces connected between one of the side lines of said convex outer surface and one of the side lines of said concave inner surface and between the other of said side lines of said convex outer surface and the other of said side lines of said concave inner surface, and said gas inlet port is connected to said gas feeder at a position closer to said wide end surface than said narrow end surface.

**Claim 26 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface on a virtual line extending from said wide end surface toward said narrow end surface.

**Claim 27 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein said outer convex surface and said inner concave surface are opposed to an inner surface of said air-tight vessel and said retainer, respectively, and said gas outlet holes are formed in said inner concave surface.

**Claim 28 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 26, wherein said virtual line is a generating line of said concave inner surface, and is substantially in parallel to a centerline of said retainer.

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**Claim 29 (newly added):** The gas treatment apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein said wide end surface has a generally crescent shape.

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